4th August 1932]

## Appendix I.

[Vide answer to question No. 95 asked by Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th August 1932, page 252 supra.]

*Copy of petition presented to the Collector by the residents of Thodikana village, dated 22nd June 1932.*

[The humble petition of the residents of Thodikana village, Puttur taluk, South Kanara district.]

Aggrieved by the order of the Collector of 17th May 1932 closing the Thodikana Reserve Forest for grazing of the cattle of the villagers from 1st June 1932, the above petitioners make the following appeal on the following among other grounds:—

(1) The village of Thodikana with the exception of the residential houses of the villagers and the small patches of land immediately surrounding them which is all the Revenue land in the village, all the other land is classed as "Reserve Forest" and necessarily the villagers have to graze their cattle only in the Reserve Forest as they have been doing from of old. The order of the Collector of South Kanara abovesaid has deprived the villagers of the only means of grazing their cattle.

(2) The petitioners learn that owing to the fire which broke out in the forest owing really to the lateness of rainfall this year and to the spread of fire from Coorg side, but wrongly ascribed by the forest officials to the mischief of some villagers, which later is false as the villagers themselves would never set fire to the forests which are so close to their dwelling houses and which would burn their houses as well as has actually happened causing about three or four thousand rupees damage by the burning of about three houses, the forest officials appear to have reported to the Collector to stop the privilege of grazing as a punishment. The result is that the villagers as a whole are put to very serious hardship, the cattle cannot but be grazed in the only available land which is all classed as forest land and the moment cattle are found there, they are sent to the pound and villagers are forced to pay Rs. 2 each per head of buffalo, and Re. 1 each per head of cow, in addition to the feeding charges and compounding fees. Even if cattle are found on the road side, forest officials impound them and put the villagers to serious trouble and loss.

(3) Cattle are absolutely necessary for cultivation purposes of the villages as is well both for manure and tilling as well as for the milk supply. For want of a grazing ground, the cattle of the village have all been sent to Coorg to the house of the relative of the villages in the neighbouring district of Coorg, or to other villagers, which will seriously affect the cultivation and health of the villagers.

(4) The petitioners, therefore, pray that in modification of the order of the Collector of South Kanara abovesaid, the petitioners may be allowed to graze their cattle as before. For which act of kindness and justice, the petitioners shall ever be grateful.